

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is intended to restrict the reproducing of disk-copyable recording media. A PC records content to an optical disk along with a product ID for identifying the recording environment of the PC. When the optical disk recorded by the PC is loaded on it, a reproducing apparatus reads the product ID and, if initialization product ID has not been registered with a product ID management table, stores the product ID of the PC into the product ID management table as an initialization product ID. If initialization product ID has already been registered, the reproducing apparatus compares the registered initialization product ID with the product ID of the PC and, if a mismatch is found between them, disables or restrict the reproducing of the optical disk. The present invention is applicable to those reproducing apparatuses which reproduce optical disks recordable with copyright-protected content.